

Executive Summary

The City of Long Beach has begun the process for updating the Land Use and Mobility Elements of its General Plan, which were last updated in 1989 and 1991, respectively. Since that time, the community's physical, economic, social, and cultural conditions, needs, and issues have evolved, warranting the review and update of the Elements of the Plan to ensure its continued applicability and usefulness.

As the first step, the City staff has consolidated its sixty-one separate neighborhoods into five community clusters. To facilitate the discussion of land use policy, A Community Cluster Advisory Committee (Committee) was appointed by the City for each cluster. Each Committee has 20 to 30 members representing the community cluster: demographics, employment, home ownership, interests, and community organization affiliations. The Committee members will serve as a conduit for the community outreach for future General Plan Update events. Each Committee is schedule to meet at least three to five times during the planning process. The purpose of the meetings is threefold:

- To facilitate public participation and involvement in the General Plan Update process
- To provide the public with current data and information regarding land use and mobility, examine land use development and transportation concepts (mixed-use developments and corridor housing) and how they have worked in other communities as well as their pros and cons
- To develop a vision for the future use, character and mobility of the community and the policies necessary to achieve that vision

The first round of meetings were held in January 2004 and its purpose was to gather input from the Committees as to the assets and issues of the City and their neighborhood, and what they would like to have changed in their Community Cluster.

This report presents the results of the first workshop to attain input from the Community Committees. This process included diverse opportunities for community input involving the participation of over 125 people. Input from the Committee members identifies issues and opportunities that will help frame the discussion of subsequent public meetings and discussions.

The community input provided in this report is critical, because it frames the discussions around the central policy issues to be addressed in the Land Use and Mobility Elements Update of the General Plan. As policies are revised and supplemented for the General Plan Update, community participation will continue to be sought. The technical research phase of the Elements Update was commenced in the fall of 2003.

Continued community input and involvement are essential components in the process to reconsider existing policies or to formulate new policies for inclusion in the Land Use and Mobility Elements Update. The policies will not only influence the City's allocation of funds

and services but will also have a lasting impact on the physical, economic, and cultural fabric of the City of Long Beach. After further refinement, the recommendations made through the community input process will ultimately be used to shape Long Beach's future in the form of an updated General Plan.

Summary of Input

The following are common areas of agreement among the five Community Clusters of their input on assets and issues.

Assets

- Diverse neighborhoods and economy
- Location and access to beach
- Affordable and quality housing
- Climate
- Center location in the region
- Schools and parks
- Variety of cultural activities, theatres and arts
- Good transportation system
- Long Beach Community College and Cal State University Long Beach
- Vibrant downtown

Issues

- Lack of parking in certain areas
- Housing and schools overcrowding
- Lack of parks and open space
- Lack of recreational facilities for young people
- Increasing traffic congestion
- Gangs, graffiti and prostitution
- Homelessness
- Lack of community services (banks, grocery stores, etc.) in certain areas
- Blighted housing and commercial centers in certain areas
- Air, noise and water pollution caused by transportation and Port activities
- Too many liquor stores and bars